

Message Text

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ACTION HA-05

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF, MY
SUBJECT: PAROLE FOR INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES (IPP '78)

REF: STATE 020854

1. DCM INFORMED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS UNDER SECRETARY I, RAZALI BIN ISMAIL, JANUARY 27 OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S DECISION AUTHORIZING THE PAROLE OF 7,000 ADDITIONAL INDOCHINESE BOAT REFUGEES, PER REFTEL. DCM MADE CLEAR THAT THIS NEW AUTHORITY EXTENDS TO PRESENT BOAT REFUGEES WHO HAVE NO RESETTLEMENT OFFER FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS TO FUTURE ARRIVALS WHO ARE NOT ACCEPTED BY OTHER COUNTRIES. RAZALI WAS ALSO GIVEN A COPY OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY DERIAN'S STATEMENT OF JANUARY 24 BEFORE THE HOUSE JUDICIARY SUB-COMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION.

2. RAZALI NOTED WITH PLEASURE THIS LATEST USG STEP
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TO HELP ALLEVIATE THE REFUGEE PROBLEM. HE STATED THAT THE GOM'S POLICY TOWARDS REFUGEES REMAINS THE SAME, I.E., THAT MALAYSIA WILL CONTINUE TO ACT IN A HUMANITARIAN FASHION AND GIVE REFUGEES IN DISTRESS TEMPORARY ASYLUM PENDING THEIR RESETTLEMENT ELSEWHERE. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT ISOLATED LOCAL PROBLEMS MAY OCCUR, HE SAID THE GOM WILL CONTINUE TO

ASSURE THAT LOCAL AUTHORITIES ACT ACCORDING TO THIS POLICY. DCM RESPONDED BY INDICATING OUR UNDERSTANDING AND APPRECIATION OF GOM POLICY AND STATED OUR HOPE THAT ASYLUM WOULD CONTINUE TO BE GIVEN TO ALL ARRIVING BOAT CASE REFUGEES, INCLUDING THOSE WHO MIGHT PHYSICALLY BE ABLE TO CONTINUE ON ELSEWHERE, SO THAT OUR OFFICIALS AS WELL AS THOSE FROM OTHER RESETTLEMENT COUNTRIES SUCH AS AUSTRALIA AND FRANCE COULD HAVE ACCESS TO THEM AND RESETTLE THEM UNDER PROPER PROCEDURES.

3. RAZALI ALSO INDICATED INTEREST IN THE USG'S EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A LONGER RANGE PROGRAM FOR INDO-CHINESE REFUGEES, AS DESCRIBED IN MS. DERIAN'S STATEMENT. THE DCM SAID HE HAD NO DETAILS ON THIS YET BUT THAT WE WOULD KEEP THE GOM INFORMED AS OUR PLANS DEVELOP. THE DCM ALSO TOOK THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN TO RAZALI OUR PROCEDURES FOR MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES TO THE U.S., NOTING THAT THEY WERE BEING MOVED OUT AT A SUBSTANTIAL RATE OF SOME 500 REFUGEES A MONTH.

4. EMBOFFS HAVE ALSO INFORMED UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE SAMPATKUMAR OF THE NEW REFUGEE AUTHORIZATION. MILLER

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